(b) whether the State Government has asked for Central assistance for development of some more new tourist circuits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the schemes for Product/ Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The following project proposals have been received and sanctioned for the State of Uttarakhand in the year 2007-08:

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Integrated Development of Pilgrim Circuit at Reetha Sahib and Nanak Matta	466.59
2.	Development of Dhanolti-Chamba-Narendra Nagar Tourist Circuit in Uttarakhand	554.93
3.	Development of Munsiyari as a Tourist Destination	452.52
4.	Development of Corbett National Park as a Tourist Circuit	602.00
	TOTAL:	2076.04

Allocation of funds for tourism

†843. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fund allocated to the States for the development of tourism during the current Five Year Plan, as on date;

(b) the details of the work done by the States during the said period;

(c) the details of the schemes formulated by Government for this purpose; and

(d) to what extent these schemes have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism does not allocate funds State-wise. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development and promotion of tourism under the following Schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits including Rural Tourism.
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. Computerization and Information Technology.

4. Celebration of Fairs and Festivals.

The Plan Budget for 2007-08 is Rs. 953 crore. Rs. 323 crore has been released to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in the current Five Year Plan for upgradation of infrastructure at tourist destinations/circuits.

Implementation and monitoring of the projects is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of implementation and utilization of released central assistance from time to time.

Development of tourism in Sikkim

844. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has chalked out any plan for promotion and development of tourism in the North-Eastern Region (NER) particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance to North Eastern States for development of infrastructure, Information Technology, Large Revenue Generating Projects and for organizing fairs/festivals/events. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned tourism projects for Rs. 392.33 crore to all States in the North Eastern Region including Rs. 74.96 crore for Sikkim. During 2007-08, Rs. 119.00 crore has already been sanctioned for tourism projects in North-Eastern States including Rs. 54.83 crore for Sikkim.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes tourism to North East by launching dedicated media campaigns, website and production of publicity and collateral material. Information on North Eastern Region is disseminated through the Indiatourism offices in India and abroad.

Development of tourism in the country

845. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parliamentary Committee has asked Government to adopt "aggressive" marketing and publicity strategies and develop the country as a world class tourist destination for successfully competing with other Asian Nations like China and Singapore;

(b) whether Committee has given number of suggestions for developing competitive destinations that match international standards in terms of price, quality and level of satisfaction;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations;

(d) what are the concrete steps and measures Government proposes to take; and

(e) whether Government has agreed to provide more outlay for development of tourism in the country during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A series of promotional activities have been undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism, through its overseas offices, for increasing the visibility of Indian tourism products and to